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ABSTRACT

In 1989 a two year collaborative project, CAI (Computer Assisted Instruction) & Humanities, was initiated between the Faculty of Arts and IBM Netherlands during which General Information Retrieval All Faculties For Bibliographic Education (GIRAFFE), a program for the retrieval of information on general bibliographies, was developed. The program, designed for use by students, employees of universities, and visitors to university libraries, is intended to inform users of bibliographic databases that might fulfill their information needs, and to give them insight into the organization of bibliographic databases and systems. The computer was found to be an efficient teaching device for the task of bibliographic information retrieval because of its ability to react to the immediate needs of the individual students, provide help and supplementary information, and act as an aid to any user interested in finding information in any bibliographic databases. (Contains 4 references.) (ALF)

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GIRAFFE, A COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

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'Access to Knowledge' means access to information. To have access one needs to know what information sources are available and how the information wanted can be retrieved. Information technology and its products are penetrating with increasing speed and a compulsory way into government, business, science and education but also into day-to-day life of the citizen. There is a growing amount of information, information sources, information media which is retrievable over a greater geographic area in a decreasing period of time by a growing number of people via several communication channels. For most people ordinary skills are not sufficient any more and instruction on information retrieval and information management is needed, even for day-to-day life (PIN-codes).

If we restrict ourselves to 'Scientific Information', information used by scientists, we see that information is retrieved via several information channels: oral, written (printed, or digital). Formalised (written) information plays a specific function in scientific communication. The vast body of formalised information is supposed to represent the universal body of knowledge. To be able to retrieve relevant information, students have to know how scientific communication in general and for the relevant branch of knowledge is organised. What information sources are available on what information media and via what communication channels. We gather that more and more students are poorly informed over the possibilities to find relevant information and lack the skill of an adequate use of information sources. Bibliographies form the most general group of reference material.

Library instruction in general and instruction in information retrieval can vary from a global introduction to a series of instructions. Fjällbrant[1] distinguishes several ways of instruction:

Group instruction	lecture seminar/tutorial demonstration guided tour
Group and individual instruction	film video tape tape/slide audio tape/illustration
Individual instruction	book, printed guide practical exercises programmed instruction self-instructional material individual help

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Results of these trainings vary according to the given instruction itself and to the amount of interest of the students. Many of them are not interested in the subject until, in a late stage of their study, they are confronted with the problem of information retrieval. Computer-Assisted-Instruction as an aid for the instruction in library instruction and information retrieval has several advantages among which:

- it can be used at a moment chosen by the student him/herself
- it is interactive: offers feedback; help; control
- evaluation can be built in and printed (paper/file)

The instruction in the use of the 'Bibliographical Apparatus', has been part of the curriculum of the Department Book, Library and Information Science (UvA) for many years. In this programme attention is payed to the history of scientific communication and the organization of the bibliographic apparatus. Besides these lectures the students are trained in the use of the bibliographical apparatus by way of several tasks, which increase in degree of difficulty during the course. In the end students have to compile a small bibliography in which they have to describe how the bibliography came into existence

In 1989 a two year project 'CAI & Humanities' was initiated. A collaboration of the Faculty of Arts and IBM Netherlands. In this project our proposal for the development of GIRAFFE (General Information Retrieval All Faculties for Bibliographic Education) was honoured. The main objective of the project was the development of a general retrieval programme for information on general bibliographies.
The programme has two aims:

1. To inform the user on bibliographies, that might fulfil information needs;
2. To give insight into the organization of the bibliographic apparatus.

The group aimed at consists of students, employees of universities and visitors of university libraries who want to consult bibliographies.
The programme is also developed specifically to give students a basic understanding of the organization of the bibliographic apparatus, and how to use it. Students are taken through logical steps in order to learn how to find relevant bibliographic references.

The programme has a menu-driven structure, which is developed by the COO-lab of the Faculty of Arts (UvA) and BIZON[2]. The programme has a tree structure. It is possible to go directly from one description to another. The name or term is highlighted in the text. Each highlighted letter or term indicates a choice possibility. The choice can be activated by pushing the <ENTER> key.

The text of the programme was written in WordPerfect. There are now about 220 screens defined; 128 screens contain descriptions of reference material. All retrieval actions lead to a description of a bibliography or other reference material or to an instruction for further action via the help programme. The programmeme does not contain the bibliographic information itself but the description may contain a reference to the place where it can be found in the library or information service where the programme is available. The programmeme is flexible and can easily be updated or filled with any bibliographic reference material and call numbers. The programme will be available for MS-DOS personal computers with or without harddisk on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes.

The references that are included in the programmeme are selected from the 'Lijst van Algemene Bibliografieën'[3] and the 'Overview of bibliographies and bibliographical aides'[4]. Criterium for determining whether a title was included in this edition of GIRAFFE is the importance of the publication and the availability on large scale in the Netherlands. The descriptions of the reference material on the screens have a standard structure. An INDEX can be activated with the F3 function key. The list can be browsed with the arrow keys, or by typing the entry. If the entry is not in the index, the most proximate term will be Highlighted. Via the <ENTER> key the chosen page will be displayed. If there are more pages with the same index word, an overview is given with the titles of the pages.

CONCLUSION.

GIRAFFE is developed primarily as an aide for lessons on the structure and use of the bibliographic apparatus. The computer is an efficient teaching device because of its ability to react immediately to the needs of the individual student for checking the successive steps through the bibliographic apparatus. Those checks can be made by going 'backwards' into the search strategy via the <ESC> key. At the same time, it is possible to get help and supplementary information over procedures and terms via the F1 function key. The programme can also function as an aide to any user for finding information over the bibliographic apparatus in any information service. The programme can function as a separate programme or can be integrated in a shell with information on more specialized subjects.

During the ECER 92 convention a demonstration of the programme will be given.

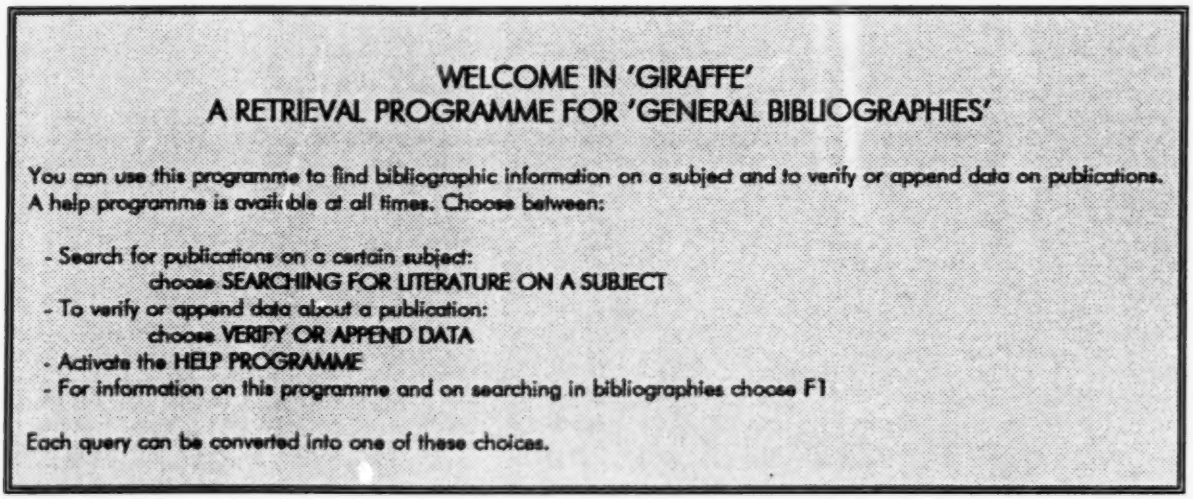
WELCOME IN 'GIRAFFE'
A RETRIEVAL PROGRAMME FOR 'GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES'
You can use this programme to find bibliographic information on a subject and to verify or append data on publications.
A help programme is available at all times. Choose between:
- Search for publications on a certain subject:
choose SEARCHING FOR LITERATURE ON A SUBJECT
- To verify or append data about a publication:
choose VERIFY OR APPEND DATA
- Activate the HELP PROGRAMME
- For information on this programme and on searching in bibliographies choose F1
Each query can be converted into one of these choices.

Fig. 1. Opening Screen.

1. User education in libraries / Fjällbrant, N. and Malley, I. - London : Bingley (1984)

2. BIZON is a system for retrieving bibliographic information on Dutch literature. See Piet Verkruysse: How a Bison was born. In: New Media in the Humanities. Judith Janssen and Heleen van Loon (eds). Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam Faculty of Arts, 1991.

3. Lijst van Algemene Bibliografieën. Samengesteld door Gerhard J.A. Riesthuis & Tineke Groot. Zevende herziene uitgave (1988). Amsterdam: Vakgroep Boek & Bibliotheekwetenschap.

4. A.O. Kouwenhoven. Inleiding tot de bibliografie: oude en nieuwe wegen voor het zoeken en toegankelijk maken van documentaire informatie. 2e geh. herz. dr. Assen: VAn Gorcum, 1989.